REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated September 21, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 have been amended. Claims 8-17 have been added. Claims 1-17 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1 and 4-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,079,121 to *Khadkikar et al.* (hereinafter "*Khadkikar*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As required in Chapter 2131 of the M.P.E.P., in order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, "the reference must teach every element of the claim." *Khadkikar* does not teach every element recited in claims 1 and 4-7. Thus, *Khadkikar* cannot anticipate claims 1 and 4-7. In particular, claim 1 recites a laundry dryer comprising, among other features, "a moisture sensor for sensing a level of moisture present in the laundry," "memory configured to store a reference voltage value and a plurality of voltage values based on the sensed moisture level," and a microcomputer "for resetting the stored reference voltage value based on a comparison of two successively stored voltage values among the plurality of voltage values stored in said memory." *Khadkikar* does not disclose a moisture sensor which senses a level of moisture in laundry. Instead, the RH sensor 10 infers relative humidity of a dryer. *See e.g.,* col. 3, ll. 17-23. Similarly, *Khadkikar* does not disclose memory which stores a plurality of voltage values based on a sensed moisture level. At most, *Khadkikar* discloses a dual-setpoint temperature controller 12 which generates a signal at two distinct temperatures, T_{ON} and T_{OFF}. *See e.g.,* col. 4, ll. 32-35. In addition, the values for T_{ON} and T_{OFF} are adjusted according to a measured humidity level. See col. 8, lines 40-43. However, *Khadkikar* does not disclose memory as recited in

claim 1. Furthermore, *Khadkikar* does not disclose a microcomputer which resets a "stored reference voltage value based on a comparison of two successively stored voltage values among the plurality of voltage values stored in said memory." Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over *Khadkikar* and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 4 recites a laundry dryer control method comprising, among other features, "comparing the stored first and second values to obtain a contamination error" and "resetting the reference value based on the contamination error to compensate for the sensor contamination." *Khadkikar* does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, *Khadkikar* discloses adjusting setpoints T_{ON} and T_{OFF} in response to a measured humidity level. However, *Khadkikar* does not disclose resetting a reference voltage value based on a contamination error to compensate for sensor contamination. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that *Khadkikar* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 4, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Likewise, claims 5-7, which depend from claim 4, are also patentable for at least the same reasons.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khadkikar* as applied to claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,888 to *Lueckenbach* (hereinafter "*Lueckenbach*"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

As required in Chapter 2143.03 of the M.P.E.P., in order to "establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention, all the limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." The Applicant respectfully submits that neither *Khadkikar* nor *Lueckenbach*, either singularly or in combination, disclose each and every element recited in claim 2. As previously discussed, *Khadkikar* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, from which claim 2 depends. *Lueckenbach* fails to overcome the previously detailed shortcomings of *Khadkikar*. While *Lueckenbach* discloses memory 110, the memory 110 stores temperature

sensor setpoint values. See col. 4, lines 48-49. The memory 110 of *Lueckenbach* does not store a voltage value based on a sensed moisture level. Neither *Khadkikar* nor *Lueckenbach*, either singularly or in combination, disclose or suggest all the elements recited in claim 2. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is patentable over *Khadkikar* in view of *Lueckenbach* and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action also rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Khadkikar* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,490 to *Tatsumi et al.* (hereinafter *"Tatsumi"*). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Neither *Khadkikar* nor *Tatsumi*, either singularly or in combination, disclose each and every element recited in claim 3. As previously discussed, *Khadkikar* fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, from which claim 3 depends. *Tatsumi* does not address the shortcomings of *Khadkikar* as discussed above. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is patentable over *Khadkikar* in view of *Tatsumi* and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Applicant believes the application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any

overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: January 21, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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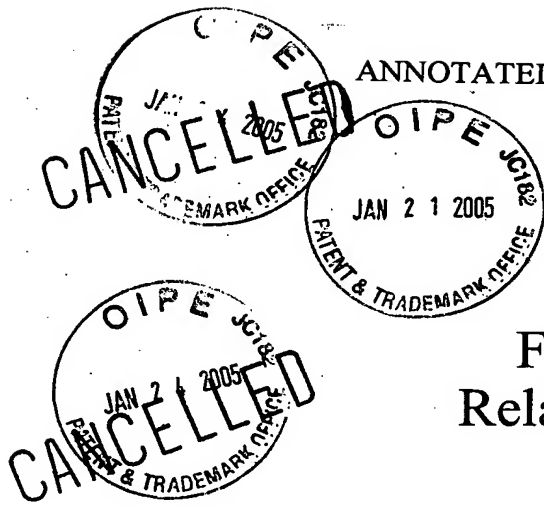(202) 496-7500
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CANCELLED

FIG. 2
Related Art

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┌──────────┐      ┌──────────┐      ┌──────────┐      ┌──────────┐              ╭───────╮
│ Moisture │  →   │ Voltage  │  →   │  Micro-  │  →   │  Load    │      ──────→ │ Motor │  60
│ sensor   │      │converter │      │ computer │      │ driver   │              ╰───────╯
└──────────┘      └──────────┘      └──────────┘      └──────────┘
                                                                        ┌──────────┐
     20               30                40                50        ──→ │  Heater  │
                                                                        └──────────┘
                                                                             70
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FIG. 3

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                                              ┌──────────────┐  800
                                              │  Memory      │
                                              │ (EEPROM)     │
                                              └──────────────┘
                                                    ↕
┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐   ┌──────────┐              ╭───────╮
│ Moisture │ → │ Voltage  │ → │  Micro-  │ → │  Load    │      ──────→ │ Motor │  600
│ sensor   │   │converter │   │ computer │   │ driver   │              ╰───────╯
└──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘   └──────────┘
                                                              ┌──────────┐
    200            300            400            500      ──→ │  Heater  │
                                                              └──────────┘
                                                                   700
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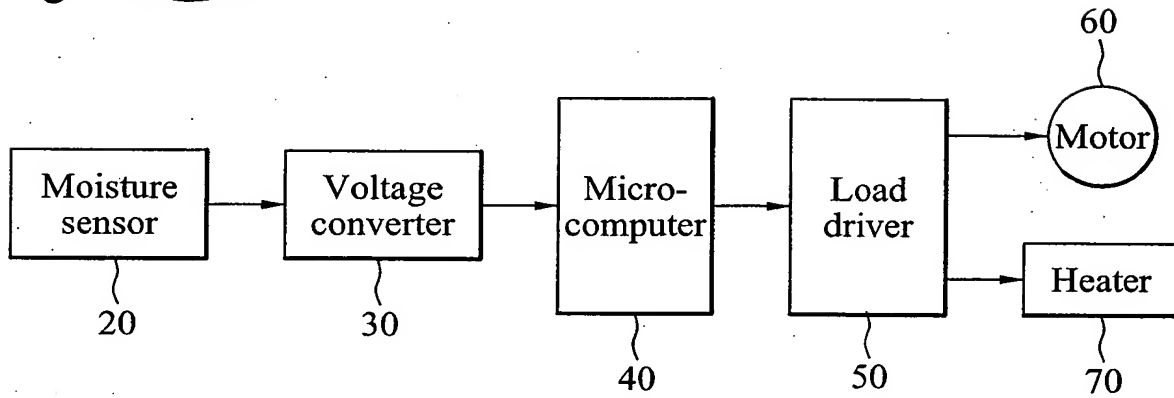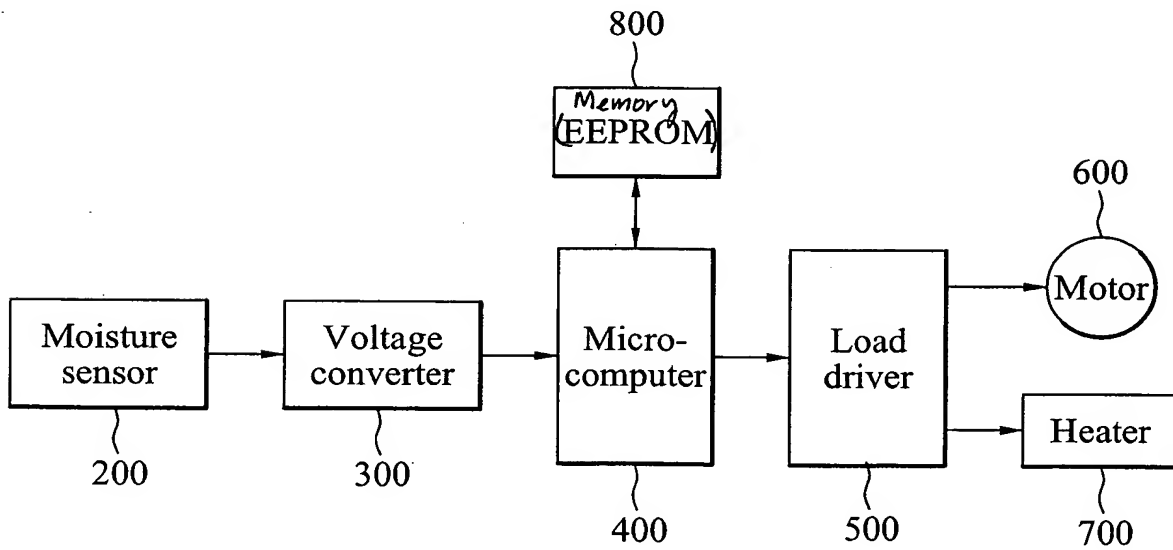
AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement sheets for Figure 3, and annotated sheets reflecting

marked-up changes for Figure 3. Please replace Original Figure 3 with the corresponding

replacement sheets.